

*CBS Mornings*

07/22/25

7:01:12 a.m.

1 minute and 2 seconds [0:16 seconds non-Eye Opener]

JIMMY FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 07/21/25]: I am your host, well, at least for tonight.

SETH MEYERS [on NBC's *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, 07/22/25]: Obviously, you know the terrible news about our friend, Stephen Colbert.

JON STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 07/22/25]: I'm not going anywhere, I think. [LAUGHTER]

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: *The Late Show* will be ending in May, and I want to — [BOOS] — thank you. I want to — I want to thank everybody who reached out to me over the weekend, including one text from an unknown number offering a high-paying IT work from home job for only two to three hours a day. Yes, I am very interested, and I will be sending you my routing number in May. Daddy needs a job.

ANNOUNCER: This morning's "Eye Opener" is presented by Progressive, making it easy to bundle insurance.

GAYLE KING: Something tells me Daddy going to have lots of jobs and lots of offers.

NATE BURLESON: No doubt about it.

TONY DOKOUPIL: Yeah. He's going to be just fine.

KING: He's got lots of friends and people are really cheering for him. I'm just glad to see that he still has a sense of humor.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah.

BURLESON: He seems like he's dialing it up a little bit.

DOKOUPIL: Dialing it up.

BURLESON: Shoutout to Colbert.

KING: Yes.

DOKOUPIL: We're going to talk about it later in the show.

(....)

7:15:40 a.m.

2 minutes and 51 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Stephen Colbert Unfiltered; Host Blasts Trump in First Show Since Cancellation Announcement]

DOKOUPIL: *Late Show* host Stephen Colbert had some things to say and plenty of big name support last night in his first broadcast since announcing the show's cancellation. He poked fun at CBS a bit, for the surprise move, people were not expecting it, and at President Trump, who, as you may imagine, appears to be celebrating the cancellation online. Here's Vlad.

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: They're killing off our show, but they made one mistake. They left me alive. [CHEERS]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: With 10 months left on the iconic Ed Sullivan Theater stage, Stephen Colbert wasted no time taking on a frequent target —

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I can finally speak unvarnished truth to power and say what I really think about Donald Trump, starting right now.

DUTHIERS: — making it clear that his attacks on President Donald Trump are here to stay until next May.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I don't care for him.

DUTHIERS: That line may have been diplomatic, but it was his reaction to reading back the President's Truth Social post where he relished CBS' decision to cancel the show that was anything but.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: [IN TRUMP VOICE] "I absolutely love that Colbert got fired. His talent was even less than his ratings." Thank you. [BOOS] How — how — how dare you? How dare you, sir. Would an untalented man be able to compose the following satirical witticism? Go [EXPLETIVE] yourself. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

DUTHIERS: The cancellation comes two weeks after Paramount agreed to a \$16 million settlement with Trump in which he alleged CBS News deceptively edited an interview with Democratic nominee, Kamala Harris before last year's presidential election, an accusation Paramount has always said was completely without merit. Colbert fiercely criticized the settlement at the time.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 06/14/25]: Now, I believe this kind of complicated financial settlement with a sitting government official has a technical name in legal circles. It's big fat bribe.

DUTHIERS: Paramount, the parent company of CBS said the decision to cancel the show was purely financial against a challenging backdrop in late night, but that decision continues to be sharply criticized. All while, Colbert's talk show brethren sat in solidarity by lampooning the now infamous Coldplay jumbotron incident.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: I want to thank you so much for being here. You know, on my last show.

WEIRD AL YANKOVIC [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: Steve, you're here for 10 more months.

DUTHIERS: And we're here for ten more months.

KING: Yes.

DUTHIERS: I'm here for it. I think the audience is, too.

KING: I can already tell the eloquence cam is going to be one of my new favorite —

DUTHIERS: Should we get one in here?

KING: I was worried about the next 10 months, but —

BURLESON: Yes, all eyes will be on him.

KING: — just to make sure that he goes out on top.

BURLESON: Yes, no doubt about it.

KING: Class act.

BURLESON: Class act, that's for sure.

(....)

7:48:50 p.m.

1 minute and 10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Jon Stewart Sounds Off on Colbert Cancellation]

DUTHIERS: Okay, let's talk about the media world that is still reeling from the cancellation of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, he has received, of course, huge support from his fellow late night hosts and we just wanted to take a moment and play a couple of clips from last night's *Daily Show* where Jon Stewart showed even more support. Watch this.

STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 07/21/25]: And if I may, watching Stephen exceed all expectations in the role and become the number one late night show on network television has been an undeniable great pleasure for me as a viewer and as his friend. And now — [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] And now Stephen has been canceled for purely financial reasons? Ehhh.

DUTHIERS: So as we know, Paramount Global has said that the cancellation was purely for financial reasons, but Jon Stewart makes an interesting point about institutions and what makes them valuable in the first place. Watch this.

STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 07/21/25]: And I understand the corporate fear. I understand the fear that you and your advertisers have with \$8 billion at stake, but understand this, truly the shows that you now seek to cancel, censor and control, a not insignificant portion of that \$8 billion value came from those [EXPLETIVE] shows. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] That's what made you that money, shows that say something, shows that take a stand, shows that —

DUTHIERS: I know we've been talking a lot about this and the financial — and the reality of where linear television is today, but part of me, just as a fan of television, sees these shows, these late night shows, shows like *Saturday Night Live*. I know they're expensive to produce, but they are part of the cultural zeitgeist. They have been part of television since the beginning of television.

DOKOUPIL: I don't have —

DUTHIERS: So people — that's why people are reacting the way that they are.

DOKOUPIL: — no, I understand the emotional feelings —

DUTHIERS: Yes.

DOKOUPIL: — but I don't have an MBA, but I don't — he is not right that the merger, the \$8 billion is based on reruns of a comedy show. Now, people are buying the movies and the sitcoms and the sports. They're not based on reruns of us, either. So I think he is just wrong about that.

KING: But he is saying that it contributed to it.

BURLESON: He is saying, it's all encompassing, the total package of.

DOKOUPIL: No, but that already happened in the past and he also acknowledged that these late night shows are what he called like a blockbuster kiosk inside a tower record. So the business is broken and what no one seems to acknowledge is that the politics also changed. The business changed, and so did the politics, and it got way more one-sided than anything Johnny Carson was ever doing. I think we should reflect on those changes as well. It's been a big shift culturally in that regard also.

DUTHIERS: For sure.

KING: I hear you, but I think many people feel there is another way to do it. You know, it's just — it's a very difficult position to be in.

BURLESON: Right.

KING: But to disagree with something that a company is doing, but also still loving your job and loving what you do, I feel —

BURLESON: Of course.

KING: — I really feel for Stephen Colbert. I think —

DOKOUPIL: I feel for the whole staff of both of those shows —

KING: I do, too.

DOKOUPIL: — and whatever comes next for everybody.

KING: I do too.

DUTHIERS: I think people will miss those shows when they're gone.

KING: Yes.

DUTHIERS: That's the bottom line.

BURLESON: No doubt, and I don't believe that he's going anywhere. When it comes to this industry, he's going to land somewhere, for sure.

DOKOUPIL: That's definitely not —

DUTHIERS: All right, let's talk Mariah Carey —

KING: But if you haven't seen Jon Stewart's monologue, it's worth — it's worth watching.

DUTHIERS: It is indeed.

(....)

8:01:56 a.m.

35 seconds [6 seconds non-Eye Opener]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Late Night Hosts Reunite]

KING: And Stephen Colbert's late night rivals gather with other stars in musical support over CBS's controversial decision to cancel his show. Stephen got lots of friends.

COLBERT: Guys. I've got — guys, stop. Guys, stop, stop, stop, stop playing. Your song has been cancelled.

WEIRD AL YANKOVIC [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: What?

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 07/21/25]: Why? Why?

KING: I think it's going to be an interesting 10 months.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah.

BURLESON: Yeah.

DOKOUPIL: Really. It is going to be good.

KING: Friends are going to show up on and off camera.